

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: ENEWSOM

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: LMATTESON

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P 181316Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169439

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR POLAD

FOLL REPEAT SEOUL 5361 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO 18 JUL 75:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5361

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: MIYAZAWA VISIT AND KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

REF: SEOUL 5272

1. DURING JULY 18 MEETING WITH FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO,
AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR MIYAZAWA VISIT TO
SEOUL.

2. KIM REPLIED THJR JAPANESE WERE REQUIRING, AS
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CONDITION FOR VISIT, THAT KOREANS GIVE THEM NOTE VERBALE

ACKNOWLEDGING MISCONDUCT OF FORMER ROK EMBOFF
KIM TONG-UN WITH RESPECT TO KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAP
CASE (REFTEL). FONMIN SAID THAT NOTE VERBALE HAD BEEN
WORKED OUT BETWEEN KCIA AND JAPANESE POLICE AND HE
HAD LEARNED OF IT IN DETAIL ONLY THROUGH JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL, NISHIYAMA. KIN SAID THAT THIS WAS
MATTER FOR TWO COUNTRIES' FOREIGN MINISTRIES TO SETTLE
AND NOT INTELLIGENCE OR POLICE ORGANS. MOREOVER, HE FELT
THAT CONTENT OF NOTE, WHICH WAS DEMEANING TO KOREA, WOULD
BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THROUGH PRESS LEAKS. KIM DID NOT SAY
SO SPECIFICALLY, BUT HE INTIMATED THAT HE WAS HOLDING
UP DELIVERY OF NOTE.

3. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HOPE KIM WAS NOT PERMITTING AN
INTERNAL ROKG JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE INTERFERE WITH THE
LARGER QUESTION OF IMPROVED ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS, WHICH WAS
OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO KOREA, AS WELL AS TO THE UNITED
STATES. AS FOR THE CONTENT OF THE NOTE, IT WAS THE
AMBASSADOR'S UNDERSTANDING THAT IT PUT THE BLAME ON
KIM TONG-UN AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE SEEN AS FURTHER
HARMING THE ROKG'S STATURE. BESIDES, IF THE TWO AGENCIES
MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE CASE, THE KCIA AND THE
JAPANESE POLICE, COULD AGREE ON A FINAL SOLUTION TO THE
PROBLEM, OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHOULD NOT STUND IN THE
WAY. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE JAPANESE WERE GAINING
A NEW SENSE OF IMPORTANCE OF KOREA TO JAPAN'S SECURITY
AND THE TIME WAS PROPITIOUS FOR A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT
IN RELATIONS. KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO
OBSTRUCT SUCH PROGRESS. THE FONMIN WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN HIS
REPLY.

4. COMMENT: JAPANESE SPECULATION ABOUT KIM'S FOOT DRAGGING
ON THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE (REFTEL) TURNS OUT TO BE CORRECT.
KIM APPEARS TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY OUT OF STEP WITH THE REST OF
HIS GOVERNMENT ON ROK-JAPAN RELATIONF, A POINT WHICH PROBABLY
CONTRIBUTES TO INCIPIENT RUMORS THAT HIS DAYS AS MINISTER
MAY BE NUMBERED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOTE VERBALE, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE169439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: ENEWSOM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750248-1161
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750742/aaaablbu.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 SEOUL 5272
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIYAZAWA VISIT AND KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, KS, JA, (MIYAZAWA, KIICHI), (KIM TONG-CHO)
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006